

Appl. No. 09/735,215
Amdt. dated January 18, 2005
Reply to Final Office action of November 18, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled, claims 1 and 4-10 remain in prosecution. Independent claims 1, 5 and 8 have been amended.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hardjono (U.S. Pat. No. 6,182,214) in view of Bellare et al. (Proposal for P1363 Study Group on Password-Based Authenticated-Key-Exchange Methods). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hardjono in view of Newton (U.S. Pat. No. 5,771,291). Claims 4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hardjono in view of Denning (Descriptions of Key Escrow Systems).

Independent claims 1, 5 and 8 have been amended to further clarify the present invention in view of the cited references.

As currently amended, claims 1 and 4 currently recite a server including a key repository process and a database for storing sensitive information, the integrity of the database is maintained by an integrity key and the sensitive information is managed by the key repository process, the key repository process also validates and records authorizations of applications to access the sensitive information. Furthermore, the master key is reassembled using the key repository process. Neither the cited Hardjono or Bellare taken individually or in combination teach or suggest such a key repository process or database as currently recited. As such, claims 1 and 4 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 5-7 now recite using a key repository process for managing the sensitive information in the database, the key repository process using an integrity key to maintain the integrity of the database and the master key can be reassembled by the key repository process by requiring only some of the passwords to be revealed. The cited references all fail to teach a key repository process and database (see FIG. 1 and corresponding discussion) as now recited and as such, claims 5-7 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 8-10 also now recite a key repository process for managing information in the storage area using an integrity key for protecting the integrity of

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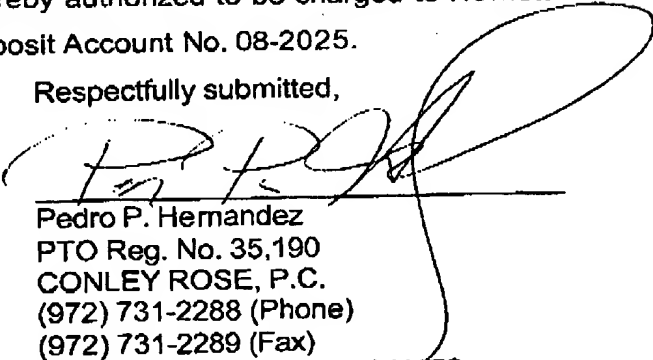
the storage area and the master key for protecting sensitive information in the database. As above, none of the cited references teach or suggest such a key repository process. Given this, claims 8-10 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite the resolution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the cited art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,



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